Request to drop Caste from profile of officers

1459. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the Department of Personnel and Training to drop "Caste" from the profile of SC/ST officers;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether removing Caste from the Profile of SC/ST officers will ensure their adequate representation in different Departments of the Central Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for such recommendations; and

(e) whether the Ministry propose to chalk out rigorous training programmes for officers of SCs/STs to make them more acceptable to Departments of Central Government and even PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This has been done in order to avoid any discrimination. Identification of an officer by caste for the purposes of deputation and special assignments may, more often than not, prove counter productive.

(c) and (d) Adequacy of representation is ensured at the time of recruitment.

(e) Information is being collected from the Department of Personnel and Training.

Increase in reservation for Scheduled Castes

†1460. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase reservation for Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering for increasing reservation for Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Representations have been received for providing reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population percentage. In accordance with the 2001 Census, the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are 16.23% and 8.2% of the total population. The estimates of population of Other Backward Classes are not available.

Welfare schemes for distinguished aged personalities

1461. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any welfare schemes for the aged personalities who have rendered remarkable service in the field of art, culture and sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No separate scheme for personalities in the field of art, culture and sports has been formulated.

(c) The welfare schemes are designed primarily to cover economically weaker sections of society.